



In the name of The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God Amen.

Updated September 2025



“For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus” (1 Tim 3:13)

General Requirements for Deacon Ordination to the Ranks of Psaltis and Oghnostos:

The Coptic Orthodox male member within SMSJ church congregation who is presented for ordination to the rank of Psaltis (Chanter) or Oghnostos (Reader) **must meet the following minimum requirements:**

I. General Requirements applicable to Psaltis (Chanter):

1. The candidate must be at least 6 (Six) years old by the date of the Ordination.
2. The candidate must be enrolled and regularly attending the Deacons school classes (Hymns & Coptic Classes).
3. The candidate must demonstrate a regular attendance in the Divine Liturgy.
(For older age candidates)
4. The candidate must demonstrate proper Christian behaviour, including spiritual virtues such as humility, obedience to the priest and elders, and purity of life.
5. Is not under the sway of bad habits such as smoking or drinking alcohol.
6. Must be consistent in confession, Holy Communion, and attending Church services.
7. Absolutely no one should be nominated for any diaconate rank as a concession or honorary title.

II. General Requirements applicable to Oghnostos (Reader):

- 1- **The candidate must fulfil all the minimum requirements for the Psaltis (Chanter).**
- 2- The candidate must be at least in grade 9 (minimum 15 years old) by the date of the Ordination.
- 3- The High-school candidates must be enrolled in the servants-prep program of the church. Older candidates must be involved in the service of the church.
- 4- The candidate must display good reading ability in the Katameros in at least one of the following languages: Coptic, English, Arabic

- 5- The candidate must be enrolled in Deacons School (Hymns & Coptic Classes), and in process of learning Hymns, Coptic language, as well as Church rites & Dogma.
- 6- Must demonstrate a regular attendance in the weekly services: liturgies, vespers, and midnight praises.
- 7- Should be faithful in practicing spiritual exercises with guidance from their father of confession (e.g., prayers, fasting, metanoias).
- 8- Must observe all fasting periods of the Church (e.g., Great Fast, Wednesdays and Fridays).
- 9- Must demonstrate the attributes of a humble servant, not being boastful in knowledge or singing voice.

Blessed is the obedient son
May the Lord God bless you all